

Administration on Aging

PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES MEASURES PROJECT

Overview

The Performance Outcomes Measures Project (POMP) has been sponsored by the Administration on Aging (AoA) to develop performance based measures for evaluating Title III services. Another goal is to develop a prototype system for recording and reporting agency level information. POMP is a multi-agency collaboration involving state and local agencies on aging, AoA, Westat and consultants.

Purpose

The performance measures developed for this project are intended to cover a range of concerns:

Targeting. The performance measures can be used to document that services are targeted to persons with the greatest social and economic need, as the Older Americans Act requires.

Explore Service, Program or Community Differences. Performance measures can serve a useful and important purpose by helping to identify, explore, or monitor important aspects of the services provided or the communities and client populations served by programs, even where no clear link to services can be established.

To Estimate Service Effects. The performance measures will be used, in some cases, to analyze the accomplishments of a program or service for service recipients. Performance measures that are able to target a specific group of clients and a specific service are appropriate for this purpose. However, because this type of targeted evaluation is only applicable to a minority of clients, the use of these performance measures for this purpose is not recommended for this project.

As a Control Variable: One final purpose for collecting performance measures is that some can also play a critical role in helping to understand the results from other performance measures.

Performance Measures

The performance measures being considered in POMP address issues in eight basic domains:

1. Physical Functioning
2. Nutritional Risk
3. Emotional Well-being
4. Care Provided by Family Members
5. Consumer/Caregiver Perspectives on Care: Access, Dependability and Competence
6. Social Functioning
7. Barriers to Service
8. Capacity Building

Some of the performance measures are recommended for consideration as core measures that would be adopted by all participating agencies. While others are for consideration as optional measures. For all the performance measures, grantees can use the recommended test instrument or continue to use equivalent measurement tools or items already in place, although this may limit the comparative analyses that can be conducted.

Time Frame

POMP is to be completed by March, 2001. The test instruments to measure the various performance measures are currently being constructed and reviewed. Data collection is to begin in March, 2000 and last for 6-months. The analysis and review of the data is to occur in the fall of 2000. The final report on POMP will shortly follow the analysis and is expected to be completed by the winter of 2000.

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